

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 9877

號七十七百六千九第

日五十月二十年四十緒光

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16th, 1889.

三年庚

號六十月正年癸

PRICES \$24 PER MONTH

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
January 14, ACTV, Danish str., 355, Kowloon, Hongkong 15th January, Rice—ARMOR, KANBRO & Co.
January 14, ANTON, German steamer, 385, B. Aenebo, Pakhoi 11th January, and Hoihow 18th, General—WILSON & Co.
January 14, GLAUCON, British str., 1,385, W. T. Hannab, Glasgow via Liverpool 24th November, and Singapore 8th January, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.
January 15, JOHANN, German str., 348, Bings, Misco 15th January, General—CHINESE.
January 15, AMOY, German str., 815, Kohler, Whampoa 15th January, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.
January 15, TELEMACUS, British str., 1,421, Henry Jones, Shanghai 8th January, Amoy 11th, and Swatow 14th, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.
January 15, NINGPO, German str., 742, Scholz, Shanghai 12th January, General—SCHREIBER & Co.
January 15, RIO LIMA, Portuguese g-b, Jose Ribeiro S. Barboza, from Macao.
January 15, OLAN, British str., 4,206, Fearn, San Francisco 18th December, and Yokohama 10th January, Mails and General—O.S.O.N. Co.
January 15, CHINA, German steamer, 1,100, Hays, Saigon 10th January, Paddy—CHINESE.

DEPARTURES.
January 14, PERING, German str., for Shanghai.
January 15, NAMOA, British str., for Swatow.
January 15, CHONG CHOW, British str., for Amoy.
January 15, BOMIDA, Italian str., for Bombay.
January 15, RIVERSDALE, British steamer, for Nagasaki.
January 15, WINGANG, British str., for Calcutta.
January 15, ZAPHO, British str., for Manila.
January 15, WM. MANSON, British str., for London.
January 15, NINGPO, German str., for Whampoa.

PASSENGERS.
Per Amoy, str., from Pakhoi, 40—58 Chinese.
Per Glaucon, str., from Glasgow, 40—Mr. E. C. Crumpton, and 27 Chinese, from Singapore.
Per Telemacus, str., from Shanghai, 40—Mrs. Shaw, and 100 Chinese.
Per Ningspo, str., from Shanghai—Mr. Sedman, and 32 Chinese.
Per Glaucon, str., from Yokohama—Mrs. J. H. Bull and son, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Flint, Miss M. Wheeler, Messrs. W. Lamb, J. J. Muloney, and F. Linds, and 25 Chinese.
Per Bully, str., from Yokohama—For London via Marseilles—Miss Duncan, Messrs. G. Christy and J. Eaton. For Marseilles—Miss Lewis. For Hongkong—For Singapore—Messrs. R. and J. Paton.

REPORTS.
The German steamer Niago, from Shanghai 14th January, reports bad weather N.E. monsoon, and for the most part during the voyage gloomy and rainy weather.
The British steamer Glaucon, from Glasgow and Liverpool 14th January, and Singapore 8th January, reports bad weather N.E. monsoon and bad weather from Singapore to port.
The British steamer Glaucon, from San Francisco 16th December, and Yokohama 10th January, reports from San Francisco to Yokohama had westerly winds throughout. From Yokohama to Swatow variable winds and bad weather, thence to Hongkong fresh monsoon and fine weather. Time, 5 days 7 hours 7 mins.

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT.
A HANDSOME AMERICAN MANUAL AND PEDAL BASS ORGAN.
Almost new.
Dimensions—Length, 4 feet 11 inches; height, 5 feet 3 inches; width, 4 inches. In Walnut case, carved and painted. The instrument has Six Octaves of Keys, C. Diapason, Melodion, Viola, Dulcet, Principal, Celeste, Flute, Horn, Clarinet, Cornet, Coupler, Bourdon Pedal, Manual to Pedal, Grand Organ, Foot Pedal, Swell Foot Pedal, Foot Pedal, Blow Hand, Pedals—1 Set 30 Notes Pedal, 16 feet, 9.30. Can be seen at the Office of the Daily Press any morning between the hours of 10 A.M. and Noon.

PHOTOGRAPHS: PHOTOGRAPHS: PHOTOGRAPHS.
The undersigned has to inform the Public that he has just received New Instruments of the latest invention for Photographing in all its Branches, and respectfully solicits the patronage of those wishing to be photographed. To ensure the excellence of his photographs he has called to his assistance a thoroughly experienced man from his famous Studio in Nagasaki.
Charges are extremely low, and punctuality and dispatch guaranteed.
Orders to take Groups or Objects out of doors instantly responded to.
Photographs taken in any weather.
H. UTENO,
Queen's Road,
Hongkong 18th October, 1888. [1922]

WINTER TIME TABLE.
THE KOWLOON FERRY.
Stratford
Runs Daily as Ferry Boat between PEDDAR'S WHARF and Tsim-Tsa-Toi at the following hours:
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INTIMATIONS.

1889. IN PREPARATION. 1890.
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.
CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
FOR 1890.
[Which is incorporated
in the CHINA DIRECTORY.
(TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL ISSUE).
COMPLETE, WITH APPENDIX, PLANS, &c., &c.,
Royal 8vo., £3.00.
SMALLER EDITION, Royal 8vo., £3.00.]

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
will be thoroughly revised and brought up
to date, and again increased in bulk.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR

ANNUAL SUPPLY OF

LAWN GRASS SEED

AND

SWEET CORN.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 16th January, 1890.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on editorial matters should be

addressed to "The Editor," and those on business "The

Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names

and address with communications addressed to the

Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good

faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one

side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not

ordered for a fixed period will be continued until

countermanded.

Orders for copies of the Daily Press should be

sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

BIRTHS.

On 21st December, 1889, on board the British bark

Lady Harcourt, of Rangoon, Burmah, the wife of Cap-

tain P. H. Williams, of a daughter, the wife of N. S.

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REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]

LONDON, 15th January.

THE SACKVILLE INCIDENT.

The papers laid before Parliament in connection

with the Sackville case have shown that the

Government has been very careful to avoid

any suggestion of a conspiracy to defame the

Government.

ROYAL BETROTHAL.

The Carverill has been betrothed to the

Princess Alice of Hesse.

[FROM SINGAPORE PAPERS.]

LONDON, 14th January.

CHARGE AGAINST A BRITISH

AMEMBASSADOR.

The Cologne Gazette accuses Sir Robert

Morier, now British Ambassador to St. Petersburg,

and formerly Minister at Darmstadt, of having

conveyed to the Emperor the news that the

Prussians were crossing the Moselle.

Sir Robert Morier has published letters written

to him which were enclosed a denial of the charge.

Count Herbert Bismarck, in December

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Count Herbert Bismarck, in December

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Count Herbert Bismarck, in December

something for the emancipation and education

of their own countrymen. In conclusion, she

thanked those present for their kind attention

and also those who had given her the opportunity

of meeting them.

At the conclusion of the Pundia's address,

Dr. Mary Ryder, in response to an invitation, ex-

plained more fully the part of the work which

she was undertaking. She predicted that the

work which she was undertaking would be

of great value to the community.

At the close of the Pundia's address, Dr.

Mary Ryder, in response to an invitation, ex-

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VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING.

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BRIGHT APPLY TO	TO BE DESPATCHED
S. N. Co.....	To-day, at Noon.
W. K. Karberg & Co.....	On or about 30th inst.
Gold & Swire.....	On 23rd inst.
..... & Co.....	Quick despatch.
..... & Co.....	On 21st inst., 10 A.M.
..... & Co.....	About 14th inst., Noon.
..... & Co.....	On 23rd inst., at Noon.
..... & Co.....	On 20th inst., at 10 A.M.

S. Bell & Co.	On 7th Feb., at 3 P.M.
S. S. Co.	On 26th inst., at 1 P.M.
S. S. Co.	To-morrow, at 1 P.M.
S. & Co.	Quick despatch.
J. Karberg & Co.	Quick despatch.
S. & Co.	Quick despatch.
S. & Co.	Quick despatch.
S. & Co.	Quick despatch.
S. Bell & Co.	On or about 31st inst.
S. N. Co.	On 19th inst., at Noon
S. N. Co.	On 25th inst., at Noon
S. Bell & Co.	To-day.

Stevens & Co.....	To-day, at 4 P.M.
Series Maritimes.....	On or about 18th inst.
Field & Swire.....	On 19th inst.
Field & Swire.....	To-morrow daylight.
on & Co.....	To-morrow, at 4 P.M.
Sat Hong.....	On 20th inst., at 8 A.M.
s Laprak & Co.....	To-morrow daylight.
ing Hong.....	To-morrow daylight.

WESTBOURNE VILLAS - SOUTH
Bonham Road.

Apply to **LINSTEAD & DAVIS**
Hongkong, 5th November, 1888.

HONGKONG WHARF & GODOWN
Goods received on **STORAGE** at Moderate
rates, in First-class Godowns.
STEAMER CARGOES discharged
favourable terms.
Also Entire **GODOWNS** to LET.
Apply to

Hongkong, 2nd July, 1887.

MEYER & CO. 15

TO BE LET,
FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED.

"TIERRA VERTE," No. 2, RICHMOND ROAD. SIX ROOMS and other accommodation, TENNIS LAWN.

Apply to J. B. C.,
Office of this Paper.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1888.

TO LET.

OFFICES & GODOWNS now occupied
the MESSEGERIES MARITIMES COMPAN
ing No. 8, Praya Central.
Possession from 1st February next.
The PREMISES can be let partly.
Apply to
LAI HING & Co.,
No. 153, Queen's Road Centr
or to

C. EWENS.
 Hongkong, 16th November, 1898.
**TO LET, FURNISHED,
 AT THE PEAK, "DUNFORD."**
A FIVE-ROOMED HOUSE with TEN
COURT. Possession from 15th inst.
 at March, 1899, or 1890.
 Apply to
J. Y. V. VERNON.
 Hongkong, 5th November, 1893.

DESIRABLE COAL GODOWNS, 2
Praya East.
From 1st May, 1888.
Apply to
LINSTEAD & DAVIS.
Hongkong, 12th April, 1888. [3]

TO LET.

SUNNYSIDE," No. 7, Bonham Road.
 Apply to

apply to
 HONGKONG, 14th November, 1888. [3]
 TO LET—AT THE PEAK.
 A "HACIENDA," formerly occupied by
 'Sir GEORGE PHILLIPPO.'
 Apply to
 H. N. MODY,
 Victoria Buildings,
 HONGKONG, 18th December, 1888. [4]

TO LET.
POSSESSION FROM 1ST MARCH OR APRIL.
THE "LENA COTTAGE"
Apply to
DR. A. S. GOMES,
Seymour Road,
Hongkong, 14th January, 1989. 18
TO LET.
ROOMS IN "COLLEGE CHAMBERS."

OFFICES in "VICTORIA BUILDINGS" from
1st February.
Apply to
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,
Hongkong, 13th July, 1888. [31]

PEAK
MOUNT KELLET.

HONGKONG, UNFURNISHED, TO
BE LET—from 1st October to 18th May
1889, at reduced rate

Apply to
EDUARD SCHELLHASS & Co.
Hongkong, 27th September, 1888. [3]

TO LET.

FROM the 1st February next, **OFFICES**
at present in the occupation of the Com-
mandant d'ESCOMTE DE PARIS.
Apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, 4th December, 1888. [40]

NOTICE.
BOOKBINDING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
AT THE
"DAILY PRESS" OFFICE.
Bookbinding in every Style by Competent
Workmen on the Premises.
Music bound in Elegant Bindings.
Marital Binding of every Size and Descrip-
tion and Account Books ruled to any

FACTORY.
QUALITY OF MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP
GUARANTEED.
DAILY PRESS" OFFICE
HONGKONG.
HUSTAV HILDEBRANDT'S
ADVERTISING AGENCY,
BERLIN, S. W. (13) ALEXANDERINEN
STREET, III, (GERMANY.)
Solicits the insertion of Advertisements in all
German Newspapers. 1880

ESTABLISHED IN 1852.
P. FISHER'S NEWSPAPER AD-
VERTISING AGENCY,
Nos 20 and 21, MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE,
CALIFORNIA STREET, S. F.
B.—ADVERTISING SOLICITED for all News-
papers published on the Pacific Coast, the Sand-
Islands, Polynesia, Mexican Ports, Panama,
Hawaii, Japan, China, New Zealand, the
Australian Colonies, the Eastern States, and
Europe. Files of nearly every Newspaper pub-
lished on the Pacific Coast are kept constantly

nd. and all Advertisers are allowed free
to them during business hours.
"HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" is kept on
the Office of L. P. FISHER, who is autho-
rized to receive Advertisements.
MONEY MONEY MONEY
MIS- to be lent on FIRST MORTGAGE,
\$5,000 to \$15,000.
particulars, apply, by letter, to
"Q. E. D."
Care of Daily Press Office

Hongkong, 21st April 1868. [178]

Amoy	Jan. 9	R. Kohler	Ger. str.	514	Siemssen & Co	
Batavia	Jan. 12	W. White	Eng. str.	258	P. & L. S. & Co	Shanghai
Calcutta	Jan. 14	E. Aether	Ger. str.	318	Winter & Co	Yamato
Chinghai	Jan. 14	Zurich	Eng. str.	473		
Shanghai	Jan. 14	R. Cass	Brit. str.	473	Morris & Hay	
Shanghai	Jan. 15	P. Kays	Ger. str.	1009	Chen	
Shanghai	Jan. 12	Moller	Ger. str.	648	Melchers & Co	
Shanghai	Jan. 9	Wm. Ward	Amer. str.	1548	F. M. S. & Co	Swatow
Shanghai	Jan. 1	J. A. Jones	Eng. str.	505		S. P. Macleod
Shanghai	Jan. 6	Lichten	Dut. str.	1163	Jardine, Matheson & Co	Amoy
Shanghai	Jan. 15	W. G. Gough	Brit. str.	4225	H. C. & N. Steamboat Co	Tientsin
Shanghai	Jan. 15	W. G. Gough	Brit. str.	4225	Harland & Wolff	S. P. Macleod
Shanghai	Jan. 15	W. G. Gough	Brit. str.	4225	U. S. S. & N. Co	S. P. Macleod

Jan.	9	Benson	Brit. str.	1041	Yuen Fat Hong	Bangkok
Jan.	10	St. John	Brit. str.	1042	W. W. L. Co.	London
Jan.	11	J. F. Hoyleland	Brit. str.	1043	W. & M. Steamboat Co	Canton
Jan.	12	A. Hearnley	Brit. str.	1044	R. R. Stevens & Co	Kobe
Jan.	13	G. Vesling	Brit. str.	1045	Butterfield & Swire	Hong Kong
Jan.	14	H. Jones	Brit. str.	1046	Butterfield & Swire	London
Jan.	15	G. Schuchman	Brit. str.	1047	W. & M. Steamboat Co	London
Jan.	16	P. Moss	Ger. str.	674	Wilder & Co	
Jan.	18	Brotherston	Brit. str.	1108	A. Haines	
Jan.	19	Brotherston	Brit. str.	1109	C. J. S. N. Co	
Dec.	1	Brotherston	Chl. str.	7		

Alhair	Dec.	1	Mounce	Grk. bk	369	Chinese	
Augustus		5	Jensen	Brit. bk	473	Ed. Godelhaus & Co	
C. Lewis	Dec.	26	C. M. Myers	Amer. bk	582	Master	
Daniel Charles	Dec.	1	J. G. C. Sayer	Brit. bk	150	Watson & Co	New York
Emerson, J. A.	Dec.	20	W. Allen	Brit. sh.	130	Orton	
John	Dec.	24	Wagner	French. bk	642	Knudsen & Co	
John Nicholas	Dec.	24	W. Quine	Brit. bk	682	Fletchers & Co	
John W. Chap.	Dec.	12	Leair	Brit. sh.	809	Wells & Co	Handg.
Mercour	Dec.	12	W. Dick	Brit. sh.	249	Arnold	S. Francis
M. S. R. Higney	Dec.	29	Clark	Amer. bk	621	Arnold, Knudsen & Co	New York
W. H. Kennett			Grk. bk			Virgil, C. & Co	

Black-ping	May	26	Finches	Brit. str	560	27 S. A. Co	
Green	--	--	J. H. Dutko.	Brit. str	562	Order	
White Cloud			W. J. Kirby	Brit. str	560	H. C. & M. Steamboat Co.	Canton

WHAMPOA.							
Black-ping	Jan.	10	Schulz	Ger. str	762	Barnes & Co	
Yellow			Heusermann	Ger.	585	Stevens & Co	
Y-mui	Jan.	14	Williams	Brit. str	519	Matfield & Swire	Shanghai

apid	June 11	Stam. bk	420	Chinese
gang Siam		Heck	750	Chinese

SWATOW.

IN PORT ON 2ND JANUARY, 1899.

Opium	647	Butterfield & Swire
Opium	1336	C. M. S. N. Co.

Eastmanland	Dec. 5	Edwards	Lit. bk.	408	H. A. Peterson & Co
Christian	Dec. 8	M. Thomsen	Ger. sch	450	H. A. Peterson & Co
Deer	Dec. 10	Simmet	Lat. bk.	418	Forsberg & Co
Olufsen	Nov. 23	Rober	Ger. bk.	488	Forsberg & Co

N OCHOV.
 IN PORT OF 52TH JANUARY, 1859.

Dec.	1	Winkler	Chi. str	801	C. M. S. N. Co.
Dec.	11	Hutchinson	Brit. str	735	Batterfield & Swire
Jan.	3	H. B. Digby	Brit. str	961	Batterfield & Swire
Feb.	1	Kangasung	Brit. str	984	Jardine
Dec.	13	Tisdall	Chi. str	854	C. M. S. N. Co
Dec.	22	Graham	Chi. str	930	C. M. S. N. Co
Nov.	2	F. Evans	Brit. str	1410	Jardine, Matheson & Co
Dec.	21	Lancaster	Chi. str	920	C. M. S. N. Co
Jan.	1	Patterson	Chi. str	950	C. M. S. N. Co
Dec.	1	Duchelleff	Ger. str	672	Siemens & Co
Jan.	4	Joselson	Ger. str	688	Nippon Yuso Kaisha
Jan.	7	"	Ger. str	695	"

VESSELS.			
W. E. Sayre	Dec. 16	Rome	Brit. sh. 1847 Order
Gla	Dec. 11	Northorn	Brit. bk. 1844 Morris & Co
W. J. D.	Dec. 7	Burman	Amr. bk. 1145 N. Sathage
K. ga	Jan. 1	Jenah	Brit. bk. 542 Nils Moller
et of Maine	Nov. 28	Nielsols	Amr. sh. 1468 Order

VESSELS ARRIVED HOME FROM		VESSELS ARRIVED AT HOME.	
ETS IN CHINA, JAPAN, & MANILA.		(Continued).	
(Per last Mail's Advice.)		Santo Domingo (a. Manila).....	Dec. 4

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG PRESS.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16th, 1890.

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION IN HONGKONG.

The Government has been a long time in making up its mind on the interpretation question, but the scheme which has at length been presented will, we think, commend itself to the legal faculty and to the public. The Governor, in his message to the Legislative Council on the subject, commences by a few general observations on interpretation intended to show that ideal perfection is unattainable, and that the gap between present deficiency and what is practically obtainable is not so large as a superficial consideration of the subject is apt to indicate. If the interpretation is not so bad as it might be it is certainly very far from being good. The piece-meal measure of the deficiency cannot of course be indicated in words, but it is sufficiently great to induce the Governor to present to the Council a very liberal scheme for bringing about an improvement. The scheme is divided into three divisions, the first of which deals with the encouragement of proficiency in the Chinese language amongst the members of the Service generally; the second with the encouragement of the acquisition of the Chinese language by European boys with a view to their employment as interpreters; while the third part of the scheme relates exclusively to the Police Force. At present the only facility extended to members of the Service to acquire a knowledge of Chinese is the allowance of a teacher's salary, which is supposed to be returned in full should the student fail in passing any of his examinations, though we believe this condition has never been enforced. Having passed his examinations he does not become entitled as of right to any increase of salary or bonus, and the sole encouragement to him to enter on the course of study is the idea that a knowledge of Chinese will assist his advancement in the Service. The new scheme holds out more direct encouragement. Allowance for a teacher is to be continued, and on passing the examination an allowance, or bonus, is to be given, varying from \$300 to \$600, according to the examination passed and the salary of the officer. Having passed the examination, the allowance for a teacher will be continued for a further period of three years provided the Board of Examiners are satisfied at the end of each year that the teaching is being profited by. It is unnecessary to dwell on the importance of the European officers in all departments possessing a knowledge of the language, so as not to be entirely dependent on Chinese interpreters, who may not always be entirely trustworthy, and who at all events will be more maintaining if they know their chief is capable of following and checking the interpretation. A little knowledge in this case, so far from being a dangerous thing, will be found extremely useful. Apart from direct interpretation, knowledge of the language on the part of the officials will not only enable them to acquire a much better acquaintance with the people but will cause them to be held in higher esteem; for, as is well known, the Chinese respect a foreigner who knows their language, other things being equal, more than one who does not.

The scheme presented by the Governor seems admirably adapted to bring about a more general study of the Chinese language on the part of the public servants. In matters of detail it may perhaps require some little amendment. An officer in receipt of a salary under \$200 a month is to receive an allowance of \$400 on passing an written and colloquial Chinese, and one of \$300 for colloquial only, but it is not stated whether, having passed in colloquial he can go up again for examination in the written language and receive the extra \$100, nor, if so, at what limit of time he may do so. There is, we believe, some dissatisfaction amongst those members of the Service who have already acquired a knowledge of Chinese at the provision that the money allowance for proficiency is to be given "only in respect of districts which officers have hitherto not professed to understand, or in which they have not hitherto been employed to interpret." While we would advocate that suitable recognition should be made, either by personal allowances or otherwise, of a useful knowledge of Chinese on the part of any officer, we cannot see that those who have passed their examinations under the old scheme are entitled to come in under the new scheme. The offer made by the Government is in the nature of a reward for future exertion. The recognition of present qualifications or past services rests on quite a different footing and must be treated in every case on its own merits. Another point that has been raised is whether the salary qualifying for the higher scale of allowance should not be placed at \$150 instead of \$200. Allowing that it is reasonable to make a difference, on the presumption that the more highly paid officers are men of superior education and that they will prove more efficient in the use of their knowledge of the language, it is contended that making \$200 the line of division rules out a number of men whose educational qualifications ought to render them eligible for the higher scale, and that to take \$150 as the limit would be more equitable.

The Interpretation Commission naturally had its attention attracted by the excellent material for an efficient interpretation service to be found amongst the boys of the non-Chinese community, many of whom speak Chinese almost as fluently as they do English. With the exception of Mr. BAIL, the accomplished chief interpreter of the Supreme Court, all the interpreters for the Chinese language are Chinese, whose knowledge of English is in some instances very defective, and even where English is spoken fluently there is sometimes a want of that general education which is requisite for the thorough grasping of unfamiliar ideas when presented to them. In

future appointments of Chinese interpreters we would advocate their being subjected to a much stiffer examination in English language and literature than has hitherto been the case. That matter, however, does not enter into the present scheme, which deals solely with the acquisition of the Chinese language by Europeans. In order to put the suggestion of the Commissioners to the Colonial boys to the test of experiment, three student interpreters, who are to be under sixteen years of age, to have shown an aptitude for acquiring the Chinese language, and to have distinguished themselves in the examination for the Colonial scholarship or other similar competition, each to be attached to some department of the Public Service. The salary of these boys is to be \$40 a month, payable subject to satisfactory progress being made, and at the end of three years they are to receive appointments to offices with salaries of not less than \$100 a month. This seems to afford a very favourable opening for boys, and at the same time is calculated to secure really efficient interpreters. In the Police Force also greater inducements are held out under the new scheme for the acquisition of Chinese, amounts varying from \$250 to \$10 per month being offered to European members of the Force who pass the prescribed examinations, and \$1 to \$5 to Indians. In no branch of the service is a knowledge of the colloquial more requisite than in the Police Force, and the encouragement now held out to the members ought to encourage its acquisition. At present the amounts given to constables for proficiency under the old scheme are \$250 per month for Europeans and \$1 for Indians. The scheme as a whole, we think, been drafted on very practical lines, though, as already remarked, it may be susceptible of improvement in details.

THE DOCTORS ON OPIUM SMOKING.

In its last issue *The Friend of China*, the organ of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, devotes a note to the annual report of the Colonial Surgeon of Hongkong, who is described as "an old-fashioned" Dr. AYRES writes:—

Opium-smoking, held forth as the Chinese's greatest vice, is certainly not to be compared in its effects with the European's habit of drinking. It is a habit to which the Chinese, as a nation, are not addicted. Instead of making such an outcry and wasting large sums of money in trying to suppress it, the Chinese, one cannot but feel with how much greater advantage we might look nearer home and attend to our own case of reform in respect of intemperance.

On this the *Friend* remarks:— "There are two assertions here. One is about opium-smoking, the other about the anti-opium agitation. With few exceptions our countrymen and the English people have had no opportunity of observing the effects of opium-smoking, and have to form their judgment upon the testimony of those medical missionaries and others, who have had the opportunity. The other matter, however, is under their own eyes. They know that instead of wasting large sums of money in trying to suppress the Chinese man, all the money spent in the anti-opium movement is a mere waste of money. What the Chinese want is a more temperate use of the 'large sum' which is only in Dr. Ayres's imagination. Dr. Ayres says, according to the newspaper, that the Chinese are not addicted to opium-smoking, but that more than in the case of a tobacco-smoker he is deprived of his pipe. In this respect the testimony of numerous witnesses on the other side is then given in the shape of extracts from hospital reports. Mr. HOBSON, of the Opium Refuge, Nig-bai, Kanah, says:— "The cries of the men often startle me from my slumbers, as I do not sleep very soundly. Two men fell down and fainted through excessive pain, each in the night, when they were allowed to smoke." Dr. DUGALL CHARTRE, of the Moulken Hospital, says that all opium smokers received into the hospital suffered seriously. The *Friend* declines this statement to give it prominence, but stands alone it is of little importance. The tobacco smoker suffers when he is deprived of his pipe. The question is as to the character of the suffering, whether it is such as to require medical treatment. That no special treatment is required is, we think, conclusively established by Dr. AYRES's evidence, which we accept as more unimpeachable on this point than that of all the gentlemen in charge of missionary hospitals combined, because the conditions under which his observations are made are more favourable to accuracy. When Dr. AYRES came to the colony he found the opium smokers admitted to get treated in much the same manner as they are in the missionary hospitals. It was believed that sudden deprivation of the drug would be injurious to their health, and they were accordingly put under special treatment, being allowed so much opium, decreasing the quantity every day, and at the same time stimulants and tonics in the shape of gin and quinine were given them. This was discontinued by Dr. AYRES, who for fifteen years has had the opportunity of watching the effect of the change, not on voluntary patients, like those the medical missionaries receive under their treatment, but on involuntary patients of the criminal class. If Dr. AYRES, like Mr. HOBSON, slept within ear-shot of the men deprived of opium, and was ready to rush to their side to soothe and comfort them when they cried out, we have no doubt they would cry out a good deal. Conceding honesty on both sides, which every one will be ready to do, the only way of reconciling the conflicting testimony of the professional men is to suppose that the medical missionaries are, as Dr. AYRES expressed it in one of his reports, bamboozled. In a good bamboozling is not such an easy matter as it may reasonably be supposed to be in a missionary hospital, where the patients do not enter under compulsion, but have to be attracted, and remain only according to their own pleasure.

That opium is an unmitigated good no one will contend, and an employer who wanted to engage a servant would naturally give the preference to a non-smoker. The habit of opium-smoking, and if carried to excess

renders a man unreliable, just as excessive drinking does. In some cases, the craving no doubt, becomes so strong, like the craving for drink, that a man will sacrifice everything, including even food, in order to gratify it. Such cases constitute only a small proportion in relation to the total number of smokers, but that they do exist must be accepted as a fact. If they were numerous we could not fail to meet with plenty of them in Hongkong, but none of the Missionary Societies have thought it necessary to establish an opium refuge here. It is, however, from the extreme cases that the anti-opiumists draw their pictures, just as the teetotal lecturer draws his from the habitual and confirmed drunkard. Dr. CHARTRE, in his report on the Moulken Hospital, says:—

It is true that the vast majority of opium smokers, good food, and comfortable surroundings may use the drug for a lengthened time without any apparent deleterious results; but the long indulgence in the habit, even under the most favourable circumstances, diminishes functional activity in the nervous system, impeding or arresting the process of nutrition, and ultimately producing very marked changes in important organs, are facts beyond question. Unfortunately, however, the opinion of the drug does not often meet with much vital reaction, for, for a short course in most instances leads to a very depriving the victim—most of opium, for the supply made in excess with the craving, and of the systematic nature, involving the health, and so on, the system more susceptible to its evil influence. But beyond the functional and organic changes referred to, another fact should be noted, which the Chinese are not apt to recognize, and that is that the higher faculties are affected, the moral sensibility blunted. Hence the opium-smoker cannot be trusted in word or deed, and I am informed that no merchant in this city will employ a man who smokes with the pipe. Above all classes they need our sympathy and help, for few have power to resist the craving when the habit is once established, however willing to give it up.

Here we have the admission that opium smoking may be indulged in for a lengthened period without any apparent deleterious results—while it is more than some of the anti-opiumists would admit with regard to tobacco. Dr. CHARTRE's statement bears on the face of it the evidence of unscientific exaggeration. Starting with a preconceived opinion to generalise from extreme cases and gives an altogether misleading idea of the true state of affairs. Naturally the moderate smokers do not trouble themselves on the notice of the missionary, whose data is as incomplete as would be the data of the temperance reformer whose observations were confined to gin palaces.

THE CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES OF CHINA.

A circular has been issued by the Council of the China Branch of the Asiatic Society, soliciting information regarding the currency and measures in use in all parts of China. A series of questions, twenty-one in number, is given, of which ten refer to the currency, the other twelve, being divided between weights and measures of capacity, length, and area. Important as a uniform system of weights and measures may be, still more important to the commercial prosperity of a country is a uniform currency. China notwithstanding the kind exists. In the numerous provinces, and even in towns of the same province, the use of varying values are used as the standard, and by which commercial transactions are regulated, while the circulating medium for small transactions is broken silver and cash, and for larger ones those of specie. The relative value of the cash to the tael changes almost daily. The labouring population are the chief sufferers from the constantly changing value of the former, and disputes between masters and servants as to the quality of the cash paid as wages are frequent. In commerce an immense army of clerks has to be maintained to test the value of silver as it passes from hand to hand, the salaries of these expensive servants diminishing the legitimate profit of business, which also suffer from the squeezing for which shrewds are notorious. The first step towards remedying any evil in the collection of exact information as to its extent and conditions. This service the S. S. Branch of the Asiatic Society proposes to render to China in respect of its currency. The establishment of a mint at Canton is an indication that the necessity for an improved currency is beginning to make itself apparent, even to conservative Chinese officials, while the rapidly with which Hongkong subsidiary coins are absorbed shows how gladly the people would welcome the convenience of a regulated and stable monetary system. The *N. C. Daily News* suggests that the necessity of establishing something in the nature of a general currency throughout the Empire before railways can be introduced on a large scale may help currency reform forward—while some rather like putting the cart before the horse, for the railway has already been introduced in the North while currency reform appears to be commencing in the South. It is not to be expected that the Chinese should appreciate so vividly the necessity of a hardy coin in connection with railways that they would delay the construction of the latter until they had provided the former; but railways, even the solitary Tientsin line, will do much towards establishing the necessity for a national and uniform coinage, for, as our Shanghai contemporary says, it will be almost impossible to work railways while the silver and cash of one place is not accepted for its use value a few fields or a mile or two further on. Our contemporary appears to think that when the time for action arrives a paper currency will be decided upon. A paper currency is undoubtedly the most economical, it also has many conveniences, and it has been readily accepted by the Japanese people, but we doubt whether paper could be made to enter very largely into the national currency in China. The weights and measures in use in China are in a state of confusion no less than that in which the currency is found. The Asiatic Society asks its correspondents to state what weights of capacity are known in their respective districts; what units of pica; what variations are known from the table 16 taels = 1 catty, 100 catties = 1 picul; and whether the tael of currency bears any

exact relation to the catty of commerce. What is catty in one district is not recognized as such in another, and the number of catties that go to a picul is not much less variable. Measures of capacity, length, and area are as indeterminate as those of weight. While such a state of things is disgraceful to the Chinese as a nation it says no little for their commercial ability individually that with varying values and measures they should be able to carry on trade to the extent they do and to work out their transactions with such exactness.

SALARIES AND EXCHANGE.

The Legislative Council of this colony recently expressed the opinion that members of the Civil Service were entitled to an increase in their salaries in view of the fall in the sterling value of the dollar. This opinion is endorsed, we believe, by the public generally, and we sincerely hope it will be assented to by the Secretary of State. Our attention has been called to this subject by an article in the *St. James's Gazette* on "India as a career," in which young Englishmen are advised to think twice before deciding that India offers the best field for their enterprise. It is pointed out that the salaries of Englishmen in India are no longer what they were, and that it has become a serious question whether a life of exile in a climate always unpleasant and for Europeans a worth living when the only tangible consolation is a salary which a moderately successful barrister or doctor at home would scoff at. There is, the article goes on to say, "a prevalent notion that the Indian salaries are still high notwithstanding the fall of exchange; but this is a fallacy, founded probably on the fact that a few exalted officials are fairly well paid—members of the Council, for instance, and of the Council, and heads of departments—and it is inferred, quite erroneously, that the salaries paid to the rank-and-file are fixed of the same apparently liberal scale. We say apparently liberal, because even the highest officials find their pay seriously diminished by the fall in exchange. Even the Viceroy—who is paid, like the youngest competition *wallah*, in rupees—is lucky. If he has means of his own, and a scrutiny of Viceroy's expenditure would most likely show that the last three Viceroy, at any rate, so far from being able to save, have spent more than they earned. The most important point made by the writer is the injury this decline in the value of the salaries paid to the officials to the Government. The Government has refused to compensate its servants for the fall in the value of silver; and it must be prepared for the consequences. Indian salaries were originally fixed on what was then a liberal basis, in order to secure a high standard of official integrity and public zeal. With salaries reduced by the fall in exchange and in other ways, that standard cannot be maintained. The tone of the European agency will be affected and the prestige of British rule in India will inevitably suffer. Flattering salutes will tend to laxity of conduct. Official scandals in India are too frequent already, and we may expect to hear more of them. These remarks apply *pari passu* to this and all the other Eastern colonies, and are well worth pondering over. With the fall in exchange the cost of living has increased to some extent, the prices of European goods having advanced, while those who have expenses at home for the education of children, life insurance, and so on, find remittances cost much more in dollars than was formerly the case. House rent has also advanced considerably, and though this results from other causes than the fall in exchange it may appropriately be taken into consideration in connection with any scheme for the readjustment of salaries. The loss in exchange is felt most, perhaps, in connection with its savings. Every one, if he is wise, looks to save something out of his salary. The amount that a man could save formerly in four years would now take him five, if the amount be turned into sterling, as it must be ultimately if a return to England is intended. Thus one year in five is devoted to making up the loss in exchange. Non-official salaries are affected to some extent in the same way, but in commerce matters are more elastic than in the Government service and adapt themselves more readily to circumstances. The question of the effect of exchange on salaries has probably been dealt with by many houses; but where it has not been taken into consideration the fall in exchange will be likely to render the scheme, whatever principles may be adopted, more correct one.

THE INCIDENT ON BOARD THE "CALEDONIAN." Hon. F. RYAN, M.P., has just returned from his recent visit to the *Caledonian*, which is reported in the public prints of an officer of the Supreme Court being obstructed in the execution of his duty. His Excellency—the official report was only laid before the Council on the 10th inst. he read it, however, and I find that in the matter the particulars are very much as reported in the public press. The only difference in the matter which I have observed between the official report and what I read in the morning paper, is the circumstance related in the paper, with regard to sending for an officer of the French man-of-war. That does not appear in the official report. It is comparatively a matter of little importance except as regards that fact that if it be the case it shows that justice would not be done in the matter of the *Caledonian*, which is a French man-of-war in the harbour, and points to the probability that if such vessel had not been here—which is the case about nine-tenths of the year—the law would not have been allowed to take its course. Of course, I have not made up my mind definitely on the case, but it adds very much strength to the views expressed in Council, with regard to the *Caledonian*, which is a French man-of-war in the harbour, and points to the probability that if such vessel had not been here—which is the case about nine-tenths of the year—the law would not have been allowed to take its course. 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